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Free Cuba News

PUBLISHED BY CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR A FREE CUBA

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WHY "FREE CUBA NEWS"

Free Cuba News is being published by the newly-formed Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba (see "Statement of Purpose" and list of members, pp. 6-8) in response to a national need for information on what is actually happening inside Cuba, and inside Latin America. Since it is abundantly clear that the American people are not getting enough information about these vital areas, the Committee also hopes to supplement Free Cuba News with periodic special reports and fact sheets going into greater depth and detail on questions that can only be touched upon here, as part of a national news service it would like to establish. Readers are invited to take advantage of our informational facilities.

The object of Free Cuba News is to publish news about Cuba, and about the growing Castro-Communist infiltration of Latin America, which is not now finding its way into existing major news media. Its stories will be strictly factual, and as free of opinion and partisan bias as professional journalists can make them. Facts constitute the foundation of any realistic solution to a problem, and it is the hope of Free Cuba News that the facts it presents will contribute toward the national discussion of the Cuba problem that is so urgently required for its solution.

Our basic conviction is that the American people, when given the facts, will make up their own minds as to what should be done about them.

Daniel James
Editor

INSIDE CUBA

CASTRO'S 'CHILD EXECUTIONERS'

"The most dangerous killers in Cuba are children of 12 to 15 years of age, who serve in elite Army units," according to Dr. Gumersindo Garay, former head of the Cuban regime's Sanitary Mission in Cruces, Las Villas province. Dr. Garay fled Cuba in a small boat last week. A cancer specialist, he has practiced medicine 25 years.

"It would sicken you to see these children walking about with machineguns slung over their shoulders and bandoliers of ammunition across their chests," Dr. Garay continued, in an interview with a Free Cuba News correspondent. "Killing is, for them, a game. They regard their fellow Cubans with contempt. Anyone not wearing a uniform is an enemy."

The physician continued:

"These child executioners are popularly called 'Raúl's Creche,' after Raul Castro, Minister of the Armed Forces and the Premier's younger brother. "They act with unbelievable cruelty and utterly cold-bloodedly. Without the slightest compassion, they have shot a number of peasants suspected of helping anti-Castro forces in the hills."

Dr. Garay has seen "Raúl's Creche" in action:

"I know personally of four such executions near Cruces, and I know of several score peasants who have been evicted from their poor homes by these youthful murderers. They are indoctrinated by the Young Rebels, and given initial military training by them. Then they enter the Rebel Army."

The child executioners are known as "Raúl's Creche" because of their viciousness, and because so many of them come from Oriente -- the home of the Castros -- and are thoroughly loyal to Raúl. They are drawn from the lowest classes of Oriente.

"They are organized into special units commanded by adults," Dr. Garay reports further. "These select units are continually being indoctrinated in Communism. Their nominal head is Joel Iglesias, 21; their real chief is Raul Castro. They are in almost every Cuban town. But worst of all are the shock troops moved from place to place to crush resistance."

The youngsters Dr. Garay speaks of are given the best arms and every kind of privilege, constituting part of Cuba's "New Class."

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GUEVARA: LABOR UNIONS MUST 'DISAPPEAR'

Cuba's Minister of Industry, Maj. Ernesto Guevara, believes it is the "destiny of labor unions to disappear," according to the Castro regime's press organ, "Revolucion." In a speech he made in Havana before a group of Cuban workers selected to receive "Menciones de Honor," Guevara is quoted by the Feb. 2, 1963 issue of "Revolucion" as follows:

"The labor movement does not respond to revolutionary reality. Is it the fault of the leaders? Perhaps in part, but I think it is mainly due to the faulty

structure, of not having determined what a labor union is or what its destiny is in a country that is building socialism. The destiny of the labor unions is to disappear."

He added:

"Labor unions must learn a new role: that of an ally of the administration in production. . . . Now the workers will have to accept responsibility for the plans [of the State]; the workers are not independent of enterprises, as they were before. . . ."

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CUBA'S SUGAR CRISIS

"Cuban sugar production is reaching new lows because so many farmers are fleeing from the harvest fields." -- Maj. Ernesto Guevara, Minister of Industry, speaking in Santa Clara on April 6.

Guevara's statement is supported by other sources. An excellent official source -- the monitored broadcasts of the Cuban Government's internal network of civil and military radio communications -- reveals the existence of widespread sabotage, almost universal efforts to slow down cutting and delivery of cane, and of sugar mills that have been abandoned completely.

On April 8 -- the beginning of Holy Week -- sugar mills were told, "not one sugar mill will be closed during Holy Week." This was an order from Sugar Mill Headquarters of INRA (National Institute of Agrarian Reform). In pre-Castro days, Good Friday was traditionally a day off for the cane-cutters, but not for the mills. Cane-cutters worked doubly hard during the week to have a large enough store of cane so that the mills would not close down on Good Friday. To close down a mill and start it again is a very expensive proposition. Formerly, once grinding started every possible effort was made not to stop even for a moment.

Here's what happened this year during Holy Week in Communist Cuba.

Not only did the sugar mills close down on Good Friday, but most of them were out of operation for the entire week. The following mills were closed for 24 hours for lack of cane: Manati, Macareno, Francisco, Jatibonico, Jaronu, Algodones, Fe.

During Easter Week itself, virtually all sugar mills were closed. INRA headquarters in Santiago stated: "Not one sugar mill is grinding in the entire province during Easter Week." From April 8 to April 16th, the following sugar mills were among those which did no grinding at all (this list is not complete but gives some idea of the crisis in Cuban sugar production):

Camaguey Province -- Adelaida, Macareno, Francisco, Jatibonico, Jaronu, Algodones. Las Villas Province -- Santa Ludgarda, Fe, San Agustin, San Isidro, San

Pablo, Manuelita, Soledad. Oriente Province -- Baltony, Santa Regina, Estrada Palma,, Isabel B, Rio Cauto, Los Canos, Baguanos, Manati.

A new element in sabotage of the sugar crop has appeared recently -- throwing salt water on the sugar bags. INRA headquarters in Havana discovered, much too late, that several thousand bags of sugar had been ruined through sabotage by salt water. This was a deliberate sabotage effort, and the Communist government went to great lengths to determine who was responsible. INRA headquarters in Santiago, for example, sent out a message to find a certain engineer by the name of "Escalona" in Holguin, to question him in regard to the salting of sugar. Another message from Havana referred to the same "Escalona," saying, "We are trying to find him also."

The sugar situation in Camaguey province has gotten so bad that a great number of sugar mills have been placed under direct government (military) supervision, through the "revolutionary organization of the masses, and the various departments of state in the province."

Andreu Ortuno, former auditor in Che Guevara's Ministry of Industries, who recently skipped out of Cuba, sums up the sugar situation:

"The peasants refuse to go to the fields and cut cane. The sugar mills are working only sixteen days a month. For example, the Carolina mill averaged 76,000 tons during the first 40 days' operation, for many years. This year the same mill ground only 43,000 tons in the same period. Tuinucu Mill averaged 101,000 tons, but this year only 56,000 tons have been ground to date. It is probable that 1963 will see the smallest cane harvest in many years."

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EYEWITNESS DESCRIBES CASTRO SUBVERSION CAMPS

A first-hand account of the Cuban Government's training of young Latin Americans in subversion and guerrilla warfare has been obtained by Free Cuba News from the usually reliable Cuban Student Directorate. The latter quotes Lt. Noel Salas Santos, former commander of a training camp at San Julian military base in Pinar del Rio province, as reporting:

"In Cuba, specifically at the base under my command during the last months of 1961, five groups of Latin Americans received guerrilla warfare training. There were 70 Mexicans, 42 Puerto Ricans, 37 Brazilians, 19 Chileans and 18 Argentinians. Most of the graduates were smuggled into Mexico by small boats. I personally accompanied one of these groups to Arroyo de Mantua, where they left in the fishing craft Jorge."

Lt. Salas Santos fought with the Castro forces in the Escambray Mountains from March 1957 until victory in January 1959, but subsequently broke with the Com-

munist dictator and obtained asylum in the Brazilian Embassy. He was granted safe-conduct from Cuba in February of this year. His story continues:

"The chief of the Latin American Training Program was Maj. Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, who signed all orders and instructions and who visited the base three times. The program coordinator was Maj. Manuel Pineiro, one of the chiefs of the State Security Political Police. The groups were separated by nationality, the members used false names, and no written records were kept."

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INSIDE LATIN AMERICA

TRAFFIC TO CUBA VIA MEXICO

Flight manifests of Cubana Airlines, the official Cuban air-carrier, show that during the first eight months of last year a total of 3,447 persons traveled to Cuba via Mexico on that airline alone. The great majority -- 2,090 -- were Latin Americans.

The Latin Americans included: 443 Mexicans, 435 Cubans, 229 Hondurans, 229 Argentinians, 126 Chileans, 122 Uruguayans, 80 Brazilians, 78 Panamanians, 47 Costa Ricans, 27 Paraguayans, 15 Colombians, 14 Nicaraguans, 7 Venezuelans, and 2 Dominicans.

Among the passengers who used Mexico as a gateway to Cuba were 99 Americans and 81 Canadians. Those who came from Russia and the satellite countries totalled 265.

Also plying the Mexico-Cuba run is the Mexican carrier, Mexicana de Aviacion, which by agreement makes approximately the same number of flights per week as Cubana.

Additional numbers of Latin Americans -- and presumably Iron Curtain citizens -- reach Cuba through other means. There is now a direct flight from Moscow to Havana. Even the Spanish carrier, Iberia Airlines, has reportedly flown passengers to Cuba. So does Varig, the Brazilian airline. And Cubana itself flies from other points in Latin America, as well as Mexico, and from Europe.

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR A FREE CUBA

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DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba has been formed in response to a statement issued by Freedom House, on March 25, 1963, calling upon Americans to "unite in a movement for a free Cuba."

The Committee is nonpartisan. It believes that Cuba is an issue that transcends party differences, and that its solution requires the kind of national unity we have always manifested at moments of great crisis. This belief is reflected in the broad and representative membership of the Committee.

The Committee holds, with Freedom House, that "a Communist Cuba is intolerable," not only "for reasons which bear upon our security" but also because "it has betrayed six million people who won their freedom from the Batista Dictatorship."

But the enslavement of those six million may now lead to the enslavement of the more than 200 million people in the 19 remaining Latin American republics, for the Communists, from their base in Cuba, have launched a grand offensive aimed at conquering, initially, the entire continent south of the Rio Grande. Ultimately, that offensive is directed at the chief bastion of world democracy, the United States.

The situation in Latin America, thanks primarily to the continued existence of a Soviet base in Cuba, is far worse than the American people realize. The Communist drive there is already on the way toward producing these serious consequences:

1. The demoralization of Latin America's democratic forces, who are beginning to feel overwhelmed before the combined power of the Cuban military-police state, the Soviet Union, and Red China.
2. The resurgence of dictatorial military elements intent on taking power in reaction to the Communist threat.
3. The infiltration and subversion of other Latin American governments at a tempo which may produce additional "Cubas" before long.
4. The frustration of inter-American efforts to achieve social and economic progress.

If not halted before much more time has passed, the Communist drive south of the Rio Grande could result in the gradual isolation of the United States from its friends and allies in Latin America -- the reverse of the effort to isolate Communist Cuba.

The American people are united on the objective of a liberated Cuba. The President and the leaders of both major political parties have publicly committed themselves to that objective. Differences exist, however, on how and when to attain

a free Cuba, and the problem is to devise a means of liberating Cuba from Communism before Communism succeeds in creating other "Cubas," yet at the same time preserving the peace of the Americas.

The Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba believes that solutions to the problem can be found, and that, properly presented to the American people, they will command overwhelming support.

It is the hope of the Free Cuba Committee that such a program will help point the way to an effective Cuban policy, and that it will help create a climate of public opinion that will facilitate positive action.

An Alliance for Freedom must now be forged in the Americas if the Alliance for Progress is to succeed, and if the peoples of the Western Hemisphere are to live and work as free human beings for the society of peace and plenty they all seek. It is also an urgent requirement of American national interests. The indispensable first step toward the forging of such an Alliance is the liberation of the Cuban people from Communist tyranny.

The cause of a free Cuba is the cause of the free Americas.

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Membership List — Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba
(Affiliations published for identification only)

Executive Secretary

Daniel James, Author ("Cuba: The First Soviet Satellite in the Americas") and
Foreign Correspondent

Members

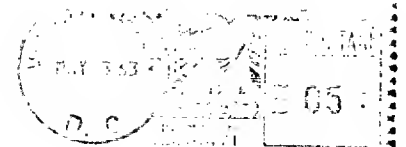
Mariada Arensberg, Executive Secretary, Cuban Freedom Committee
Murray Baron, Labor-Management Consultant
Joseph Beirne, President, Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO
Nicholas Duke Biddle, Chairman, Caribbean Committee, International Rescue Service
Irving Brown, U. N. Representative, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
Adm. Arleigh A. Burke (Ret.), Former Chief, U. S. Naval Operations
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